

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN MONONGALIA

AN OPEN, FRANK BUT RED-HOT LETTER OF INTEREST IN MARION AND TAYLOR AS WELL AS MONONGALIA.

COL. R. E. FAST, NOW OF PASADENA, CAL., HANDS OUT SOME PLAIN ENGLISH ON SENATORIAL CANDIDATES.

GARRISON, GRANT AND McDERMOTT EACH COME IN FOR A SHARE OF ATTENTION, WITH A ROUND UP FAVORABLE TO McDERMOTT.

HOTEL MARYLAND, Pasadena, Cal., April 29, 1904.

Lamar C. Powell, Fairmont, W. Va.

Dear Sir: I am writing you a line on the local political situation in the Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Senatorial district. Personally I am out of politics forever. My ill-health has completely removed me as a possible political factor at home. If I can live with a tolerable degree of enjoyment in the peace and quiet of my family, I shall be quite content. But I know so much of home politics, and the weaknesses and follies of some of those who have insisted on being leaders, that I can not repress an interest in the welfare of my own State, and particularly of my own county. I think I know what forces, follies and weaknesses of her enforced leadership has deprived Monongalia of representation in the State Senate for nearly ten years (with the exception of four years that I filled the place), and has made the county the butt of ridicule and a laughing stock in every convention, State, Congressional and district, held during the last 15 or 20 years. Why should a county that is rated as one of the heaviest majorities among Republican counties be forever deprived of the power and influence in conventions to which her large majorities entitle her? Can any rational man, who knows anything of the facts, assign her want of power and influence to anything else than the lack of sagacity on the part of her political leaders? What has arrayed antagonism against Monongalia, but the follies of those who insisted on directing her course toward her neighbor counties and others?

In the present contest for State Senator, so far as Monongalia county is concerned (but Monongalia's choice does not determine the ultimate choice of the convention), we are limited to one of three men, Garrison, Grant and McDermott. It may be that neither one suits us. But there we are. Which shall it be, and why?

Capt. Garrison is every inch an honorable, honest, courageous man. But he is too old; he is out of touch with present day State politics; he could not at his age be a useful man in either House of the Legislature. Whatever good he may have done in the past his age, lack of acquaintance in the State at large, and being out of touch with the virile young element that has come into power in the Republican party since he practically retired from politics, has unfitted him for usefulness as a legislator at the present. There is no doubt that his candidacy was brought about by Grant's ring friends, in the hope of subtracting votes from McDermott. Of course Garrison would not be a party to such an understanding. He would be no man's candidate, and would wear no man's collar. But Grant and his ring know this, and the fact was accomplished by indirection and cunning so as to deceive Garrison.

But what of Grant? Small men not infrequently have large aspirations. Grant comes from the large Republican State of Pennsylvania, where he never held any office, and never was rated above a local or township politician. His admiring West Virginia friends at last (much against his will of course) force him to accept from Monongalia a seat in the House of Delegates. Grant would have declined this office, much as Caesar pushed aside the crown, when it was offered him. But no sooner did his anatomy touch one of those comfortable seats in the capitol than his soul was fired with an ambition to "come up higher." Whereupon visions of being auditor, with perquisites of thousands a year lured him on for a time. Then it seemed that the road to the audi-

torship lay through the State Senate. Whereupon the seat in the House no longer satisfied him, and he must be Senator regardless of rights and courtesies due to others. But what has he ever done to entitle him to claim this great honor? What record has he made? O, he may tell you himself of great schemes conceived and plans executed of wonderful magnitude. But to sum it all up his power and influence among the members of the Legislature in which he sat were practically zero. Men who know the facts and are not identified with the Grant ring will frankly tell you so. He can't draw a bill. He can't frame an amendment to a bill on the spur of the moment when it is before the House for consideration. He can't make any sort of a speech. He can't either advocate or defend a bill effectively at any stage of its passage. All he ever could do was work around a little on the outside and get somebody else to do the work of a legislator he should have done himself. But he couldn't do it.

Now we have McDermott left. One must candidly admit that whatever claims each of the candidates may have, no one is qualified by legal education, and parliamentary training, to fill the role of a legislator in the highest degree. But we are limited in choice to one of the three. On merit I regard McDermott as possessing the qualities that will make him a more useful man in the State Senate to his county and his people than either Grant or Garrison. Why? He is openly frank and sincere. He will not dodge issues. He will act squarely with those who favored him and those who opposed him. He will not be vindictive and seek to eliminate from politics those whom he can not rule. His acquaintance in the State among influential men is wider than either of his opponents. He will command more respect and attention than either by reason of his blunt Irish honesty. He is liked and is popular among those who know him (the Court-house ring excepted). If he too can not write a bill; if he can not frame an amendment; if he can not make a good speech; neither can his opponents; but McDermott through his friendships and attractive personal qualities and influence will exercise a greater influence than either of his opponents. His antagonist Grant has many enemies not at home alone, but all over the State he is regarded more or less as an uncertain, shifting, vacillating factor. He is here to-day and there to-morrow. Nobody knows where to find him.

You know of course that McDermott is my brother-in-law; but kinship in this matter counts for little with me. But the accident of his relationship to me does not alter the facts I have related above. I regret that I could not be at home to take a hand myself. I should have taken pleasure in making school house speeches to inform the people of some things I have learned of the doings of her local ring leaders during 20 years. I think if they knew what I know of their ineffectuality they would bury them so deep they would not poke their heads out for the next 20 years. Then the people would have their way, and their votes and their county would be respected by others.

Those who sow the wind reap the whirlwind. But I fear these local ringsters have been sowing dragons teeth among the Republicans of my old home county. They have been big men in the Court-house puddle, but small men elsewhere. What means the election of a Democrat as mayor of Morgantown, with a full-fledged Republican ticket backed by the ring in the field. Does the factional fight against Dayton forebode nothing? And why a factional fight against Dayton except that Dayton has been choked down the throats of the voters of the district by ring methods and official vassalage. Such methods have split parties. Such methods have elected Democratic governors in Pennsylvania. Such methods in the Democratic party wrested West Virginia from their control, let us hope forever. It was their folly. Will Republicanism in West Virginia take no note of warning?

Will Monongalia county be represented in the next State Senate? It is useless to present a candidate whom

YOUNG WENTZ FOUND

LYING FACE DOWNWARD IN A MOUNTAIN PASS NEAR BIG STONE GAP YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

THE YOUNG MILLIONAIRE DISAPPEARED OCTOBER 14, 1903, AND HIS DISAPPEARANCE WAS HERALDED ALL OVER COUNTRY.

BRISTOL, Tenn., May 9.—Lying face downward at a point in the mountains which has been passed and repassed, perhaps a thousand times in the search for him, the body of E. L. Wentz, the young millionaire mine owner of Philadelphia, was found near Big Stone Gap Sunday afternoon. Young Wentz disappeared on October 14, 1903, from near Kellyview. He had been in the habit of riding over the Virginia Island Iron properties daily for several years, and it was while making one of these inspections that he disappeared. His horse was found standing near there, and it was about a mile from where the horse was found standing in the woods that the body was found face downward. He was dressed in the clothes which were familiar to almost every one in the neighborhood of Big Stone Gap, but these were scorched. The body was laid bare because of a recent forest fire which burned the leaves which had covered it. There was nothing on the face or body to indicate violence. It was found by a young man who knew Wentz and identified his clothes. The body, because of the cold weather in the mountains since last September, was in an excellent state of preservation. A post-mortem examination will be held on the body of the dead man, when it is believed it will be shown that young Wentz was murdered and the body then cremated.

BIG STONE GAP, Va., May 9.—(Later)—Additional details of the finding of the body of E. L. Wentz, son of a Philadelphia millionaire, were obtained to-day from Kelleyview, Wise county, where it was discovered yesterday. A boy hunting cows came upon the body in a comparatively open place in the woods. Hundreds of persons had gone within 20 feet of the spot in their search for the young man who had been missing since October 14 last. The body was identified by the pistol Wentz carried and by his clothing and eyeglasses. An examination of the pistol disclosed three missing balls and several others were found in parts of the body. The theory is that Wentz was murdered and left where he had fallen. The county physician, after a consultation with the State's Attorney (this morning, announced that an autopsy would probably be held late this afternoon to determine the cause of Wentz's death. D. B. Wentz, a brother of the dead man, is en route here from Philadelphia to take charge of the remains.

Licenses To Wed.
Thomas A. Barbee, 45, and Sarah E. Criss, 42.
Jesse J. Taylor, 21, and Sarah Burdine, 17.
Tommaso Isabella, 23, and Antonia Marra, 16.

Carpenter Hurt.
G. W. Holt, a carpenter of the Fifth ward, ran a nail into his foot on Saturday, from which he is suffering considerably. He was out on crutches this morning.

Went to Morgantown.
Mrs. N. R. C. Morrow will deliver an address in the University Chapel at Morgantown this evening. She went down on No. 51 this afternoon.

Marion and Taylor will not ratify. I trust Monongalia will act wisely and resume the station in State and local politics of the Republican party, which the follies of her local leaders through a series of years have deprived her of.

The only apology I offer for writing this letter is the deep sympathy I have in the affairs of the State and county that I once called home, but from which I am exiled in a search for health. But the fact will always be that the best and happiest years of my life were spent in old Monongalia.

With kindest regards, I am,
Sincerely yours,
R. E. FAST.

MANY PRESS MEN

WANT TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION—DEMAND FOR SEATS IS FAR IN EXCESS OF SUPPLY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 9.—The demand for press seats at the National convention exceeds the capacity of the seats set apart for the newspapers of the country. At the Republican convention at Chicago, there will be 290 press seats in the press reservation, and already there have been received 1,100 applications. The demand for seats for the convention at St. Louis is also far in excess of the capacity of the space reserved for the press. At the recent meeting here of the sub-committee having charge of the seating at Chicago, it was decided that notice should be given that applications not received prior to May 2 shall be given no consideration. Applications for seats in the press reservation at the Chicago convention should be sent to W. F. Stone, Custom House, Baltimore, and for the St. Louis convention to Charles H. Mann, Press Gallery, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

Hon. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, of Omaha, Nebraska, has been designated as chairman of the Press Committee of the St. Louis convention.

DOWN IN OLD FAYETTE

SHE KEEPS UP HER RECORD FOR BLOOD AND MURDER—AWFUL TALES FROM SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., May 9.—Mrs. Staples gave advice at Prudence, Fayette county, at which nine men were shot over a quarrel two men had about a woman.

At a similar affair in Scarborough three men were shot.

Bill Perry shot "Blue Steel" Murrel through the heart at Glen Jean. At the same place Harry Nowlen and Bill Madison fought and each shot the other.

Bob Lawson was shot and killed by Wallace Harvey at Dun Loop. On Smith's creek two unknown men were mortally wounded. Another scrap at Glen Jean, resulted in G. H. Bumgarden being stabbed by John Brown.

"Old Man" Calloway was badly beaten with a club in the hands of Harvey Viars.

Bill Thomas beat Sadie Thomas nearly to death at Hawk's Nest.

Fayette county has a record of fifteen murders during last Christmas week, and this one of Saturday is unprecedented, two men killed, two fatally shot, fourteen less seriously shot, one stabbed and one who has his ribs broken, while a woman was so seriously beaten that she will die.

Charles Gantz Dead.
Charles Gantz died yesterday morning at four o'clock, at his home on Newton street, in the First ward. The cause of his death was quick consumption. He was a son of James Gantz, and leaves a wife and one child. The funeral will take place at two o'clock to-morrow, and interment will be made at Maple Grove cemetery. The local Bartenders' Union, of which he was a member, will have charge of the funeral.

A Big Day.
Yesterday was a big day for the local colored folks. The G. U. O. of O. F. celebrated their sixty-fourth anniversary. The address was delivered by Mrs. Josephine Davidson, of Pennsylvania. The members formed a line at their hall and marched to the Court-house. Five departments were represented, Juvenile, Household of Ruth, Subordinate, Lodge, Grand Master's Council and Patriarchy.

A sick foreigner was brought to Cook Hospital this afternoon from Newburg. He has typhoid fever.

DEMOCRATIC HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

A STRONG LETTER FROM REPUBLICAN WHO REMEMBERS HOW NON-PARTISAN (?) DEMOCRATS WERE

WHEN THEY WERE IN POWER—THE NON-PARTISAN JUDICIARY AS NOW ADVOCATED BY DEMOCRATS

CALLED FORTH THE COMMUNICATION—THE "BAR" COMES IN FOR A FEW WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE.

Editors West Virginian:

I notice that the recent Democratic State convention, which met in the city of Charleston, nominated but one candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of the State, though two judges are to be elected at the next general election. That convention named M. H. Dent, of Taylor county, who is now a member of the Court, and a Democrat. We have nothing to urge against Judge Dent as to his fitness for the high office. That is foreign to the purpose of this communication. I want to discuss, briefly, the propriety and reasons, which led the minority political party of the State to make but one nomination. The May issue of "The Bar" speaks of the Charleston convention as "Progress toward securing non-partisan judiciary." That publication is supposed to be the official organ of the State Bar Association, and therefore entirely free from partisan politics. It is published at Morgantown, and is said to be edited by one of the faculty of the law department of the State University. That is another reason why the "Bar" should be "non-partisan," like the judiciary it advocates, because it is well known that the Democratic party has always insisted that the University should be run on a "non-partisan" basis, except when a Republican could be turned out and a Democrat put in his place; or when a Democrat was in and wanted to stay in. In other words, whenever the Republican party has been in power, the "non-partisan" game has been vigorously played, and with a fair degree of success. Is it possible that the same old game is being played to non-partisanize our Supreme Court? When was it discovered that Judges with political views should not be elected? Who made the discovery? Is any one demanding a non-partisan judiciary? If so, who?

The opening sentence of the article in the "Bar" above referred to reads: "Readers of the Bar and members of the legal profession throughout the State are already advised of the progress of the movement, originating with the Bar Association, to secure a non-partisan judiciary."

It is proper to say that the Bar Association has never set on foot a movement "to secure a non-partisan judiciary." At the last meeting of the State Bar Association, held in the City of Parkersburg, Dec. 29-31, 1903, the following resolution was adopted: "That the Executive Council (of the Association) be instructed to urge upon the respective committees of the leading political parties the holding of separate conventions for judicial nominations as recommended by this Association."

Beyond this the State Bar Association has never gone. Not a word about a non-partisan judiciary. Not a reference anywhere to each party nominating one of two judges to be elected. It does seek to secure separate judicial conventions; but political conventions just the same.

I see it stated in the public press that, in obedience to the above resolution, the executive council of the Bar Association conferred with the committees of the leading political parties, and each refused to call separate judicial conventions. I am not advised why they refused. But the Democratic committee called a convention to meet in Charleston to select delegates-at-large to the Democratic national convention and to re-nominate Supreme Court Judges. This may be said to be a step in the right direction, but it was not a separate judicial convention, such as the Bar Association recommended. But who conceived the idea of nominating one candidate? And if we are to have a non-partisan judiciary, why was that candidate a Democrat? Do our friends who are insisting on this reform mean

that only Republican politics on the Supreme Bench is dangerous?

A careful study of this whole question will reveal the fact that every person in the State who is clamoring for a "non-partisan judiciary," is a Democrat, and they become converts to this new idea since the Republicans got political control of the State and of the Supreme Court. The former history of the Democratic party on this line may not be out of place here.

It is well known that the present State Constitution (subject to certain amendments) was submitted in 1872 by a convention that was overwhelmingly Democratic. The special election by the people at which the new constitution was adopted was held on the Fourth Thursday of August, 1872. At the same time elections were held "for Senators and members of the House of Delegates, and all officers, executive, judicial, county or district." That is, every election officer in the State, from Governor down to constable, was then elected. No provision was made in favor of persons then in office. Why? Because many of the officers were held by Republicans. We had a Republican Supreme Court, and many of the Circuit judges were of the same party, but all had to go. In August, 1872, the Supreme Court was composed of R. L. Berkshire, Edwin Maxwell and C. P. T. Moore. J. M. Hagans was reporter, and our fellow townsman, S. W. Hall, was clerk. Judge Moore had only held office since January 1, 1871. Judge Berkshire had only been in office since January 1, 1869, and Judge Maxwell a little longer. The same constitution provided that the terms of office of the judges of the Supreme Court of Appeals, of the judges of the Circuit Courts, and of all county and district officers shall commence on the 1st day of January, 1873. And it is a matter of history that one of the serious Democratic objections to the constitution was that it did not turn the "rascals" out sooner.

From that time on for many years the Democratic motto was, "No Republican need apply." And this was extended to every branch of the State government, and State patronage. No one then ever thought of a "non-partisan" judiciary. Republicans have always believed in government by the majority. The Democrats were in the majority, and the Republicans conceded to them the offices, and waited, sometimes, it may have been impatiently, but waited for "the day of their deliverance." In the course of human events," it came. Then for the first time our Democratic friends began to teach us political ethics. Instead, one would expect a party with such a record to be still repenting of past sins.

The Democrats have managed to hold on to many good positions. This is another effort in the same direction. Whoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

REPUBLICAN.

Fine Band Concerts.

Both the Greater Fairmont and Jenkins bands gave good concerts Saturday evening. These bands have practiced a great deal of late and now rank among the best in the State. The streets were crowded, and all were pleased with the music.

An Asiatic Department.

BIRMINGHAM, England, May 9.—The Post to-day says that official notices have arrived in London from Washington notifying the British government that the United States has resolved to create an Asiatic Department to deal with business in the Far East.

Mr. Brant Worse.

Owing to the serious illness of his brother, M. C. Brant, Rev. Otho Brant did not preach at the Diamond Street M. E. Church last evening. Mr. Brant was getting better, but yesterday he was taken worse.

The Weather.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—For West Virginia, showers and colder to-night; Tuesday, showers.

For Western Pennsylvania, showers to-night and Tuesday; colder to-night; brisk northwesterly winds.

For Ohio, showers to-night; colder in northeast portion; Tuesday fair, high northwesterly winds.